

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action of August 12, 2005 in which claims 1-12 were rejected.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claims 1-12 based on Bark et al (U.S. 6,445,917), the description in column 5, lines 22-40 of Bark et al show (referring to Fig. 1A) that the GSM network is connected via an A interface to the core network (see column 5, lines 35-38). In column 5, lines 42-45, in contrast, it is stated that the UMTS terrestrial radio access network (UTRAN) is connected over a radio access network interface referred to as an Iu interface with the core network service nodes.

However, the Examiner is referred to the as-filed independent claims 1 and 6 which clearly specify that according to the invention the GSM based access system type is also connected via an Iu interface to the core network. Inasmuch as applicant has pointed out above that the Bark et al reference in Fig. 1A thereof shows the GSM network connected to the core network 16 by an "A" interface, it is not seen how this rejection can be maintained in view of the fact that the independent claims are very clearly drawn to GSM connected to the core network using an Iu interface.

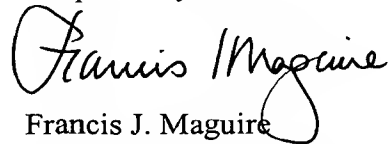
Consequently, the Bark et al reference does not anticipate the independent claims 1 and 6 and withdrawal thereof is requested.

The independent claims have nevertheless been amended in a manner similar to that done in the copending European application so as to be in harmony therewith. These claims take into account further prior art as derivable from an IEEE publication by Berruto already submitted to the USPTO on March 7, 2002 disclosing the International Search Report along with copies of the Berruto and Schieder articles and a PTO-1449. A review of the PAIR system shows that the USPTO has in fact received the IDS and we enclose a postcard showing receipt by OIPE on March 7, 2002 along with a copy of the 1449. The Examiner has not however returned an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 submitted therewith. The Examiner is requested to review the content of that Information Disclosure

Statement, initial the list of prior art cited by the applicant and return an initialed PTO-1449 to the undersigned in the next action.

The objections and rejections of the Office Action of August 12, 2005, having been obviated by amendment or shown to be inapplicable, withdrawal thereof is requested and passage of claims 1, 3-6 and 8-12 as amended to issue is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis J. Maguire". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "F" and "M".

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